

Other seabirds

Wadden Sea

This study uses the definition of seabird as described in Avian Biology (1971). This book defines seabirds as: The group of birds that obtain their food from the sea while flying, wading, swimming, or diving (Avian Biology, 1971). This does not include species that occupy freshwater habitats while breeding, but feed in coastal waters at other times, such as cormorants (Avian Biology, 1971). As gulls are discussed separately in this study, they will not be included in this informative paper. Species that, for example, will be included are: Brent goose (*Branta bernicla*), Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*).



History/ Population trends

Many seabird populations experience an increasing impact of pollution (Ducrotoy et al., 2000). The Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B.) has been concerned about the effects of oil pollution on both seabirds and seabird populations (Dunnet, 1987). However, not only oil pollution is a threat to seabird populations. Mercury level increases have been causing problems, as well as increased PCB levels (Becker, 1989). Furthermore, fishing gear is causing problems seabirds that use the fishing gear as nesting material (Bond et al., 2012). Incorporating fishing gear causes these birds, such as terns (*Sterna sp.*), to sometimes get entangled in the fishing gear (Bond et al., 2012). These birds often die of exhaustion or asphyxiation (Bond et al., 2012).

Wading birds are some of the oldest inhabitants of the Wadden Sea (Reise et al., 2010). Enormous flocks of wading birds come to the Wadden Sea to feed and thus make use of what can be found in this sea (Reise et al., 2010).

Miscellaneous

- Many species of wading birds only inhabit the North Sea during specific times of the year (Cezilly, 1997). These species spent the other time of the year either migrating from area to area or brooding/ feeding in other parts of the world, often on the African continent (Cezilly, 1997).

Sources

Avian Biology. (1971). Google Books. Retrieved October 8, 2024, from

<https://books.google.nl/books?hl=nl&lr=&id=OfjJCgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA223&dq=seabird+AND+definition&ots=GzV42JxkbP&sig=vMamO4Aau92UmB5x2pM-hc2eD0k#v=onepage&q=seabird%20AND%20definition&f=false>

Bond, A. L., Montevecchi, W. A., Guse, N., Regular, P. M., Garthe, S., & Rail, J. (2012).

Prevalence and composition of fishing gear debris in the nests of northern gannets (*Morus bassanus*) are related to fishing effort. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 64(5), 907–911. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2012.03.011>

Cezilly, F. (1997). Demographic Studies of Wading Birds: An Overview. *Colonial*

Waterbirds, 20(1), 121. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1521774>

Dunnet, G. M. (1987). Seabirds and North Sea oil. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal*

Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences, 316(1181), 513–524.

<https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.1987.0036>

Reise, K., Baptist, M., Burbridge, P., Dankers, N., Fischer, L., Flemming, B., Oost, P., &

Smit, C. (2010). The Wadden Sea 2010. In *Common Wadden Sea Secretariat* (ISSN 0946-896X). Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS). Retrieved November 22, 2024, from [https://www.waddensea-](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2010_Ecosystem29_the%20wadden%20sea%202010.pdf#page=9)

[worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2010_Ecosystem29_the%20wadden%20sea%202010.pdf#page=9](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2010_Ecosystem29_the%20wadden%20sea%202010.pdf#page=9)

Robert-Coudert, Y., Grémillet, D., Ryan, P., Kato, A., Naito, Y., & Maho, Y. L. (2003).

Between air and water: the plunge dive of the Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*. *Ibis*, 146(2), 281–290. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919x.2003.00250.x>